



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806

Telephone: 651-266-9007
Facsimile: 651-266-9124
Web: www.stpaul.gov/dsi

DECKS

BUILDING PERMITS are required for decks and platforms. **EXCEPTION:** Except in Historic Districts or Historically designated properties, decks and platforms, not more than 30 inches above grade and not attached to a structure with frost footings, do not require a building permit. Zoning setbacks must be met for decks more than 24 inches above grade even if it does not require a building permit.

PLANS- Please provide:

1. Site Plan (overhead view of the property) showing location of house and deck and distances to property lines. **NOTE:** If the deck is less than 24 inches above grade, it is considered landscaping and may be up to but not on or over the property line(s).
2. "Floor Plan" which shows size of deck, direction(s) of floor joists and location of support posts.
3. Cross-section (or side view) of the deck showing joist, beam and footing sizes.

FROST FOOTINGS are required for any deck that is attached to a dwelling or a garage that has frost footings. Minimum footing depth is 3' - 6" (42 inches).

GUARDS (GUARDRAILS) - All decks that are 30" or more above grade must be protected by a guardrail. Such rail shall be 36" minimum in height for 1- and 2-family dwellings and 42" for decks or balconies of multi-family residential buildings. Open guardrails and stair railings shall have intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern such that a 4" diameter sphere cannot pass through. **NOTE:** The triangular opening between a stair tread, riser and the bottom rail of the guard may have a spacing such that a 6 inch sphere will not pass through.

OVERHANGING DECKS - Joists should generally not overhang beams by more than two feet, nor should beams overhang posts by more than one foot.

LIVE LOAD - All decks shall be designed to support a live load of 40 pounds per square foot.

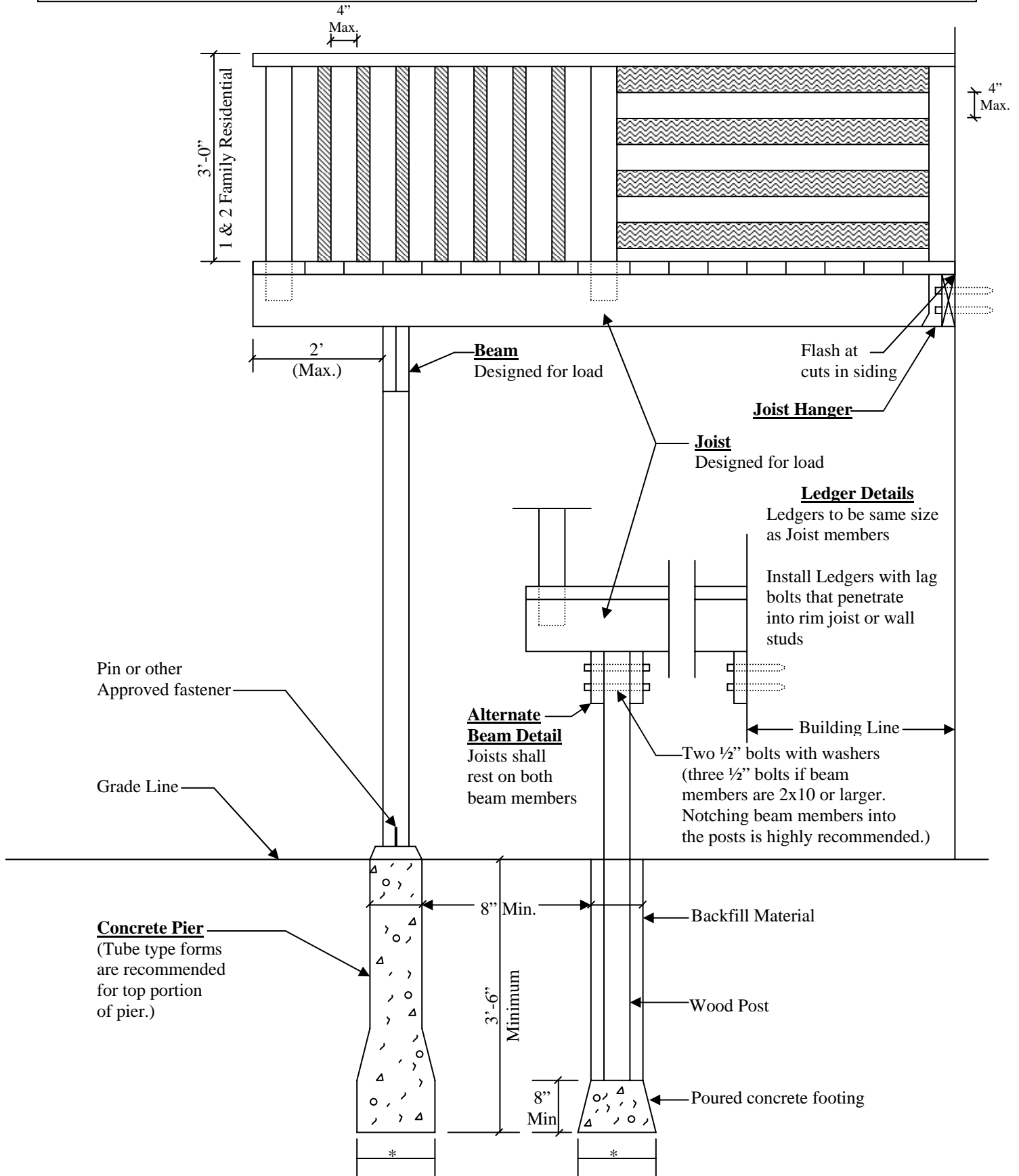
FLASHING - All connections between deck and dwelling shall be weatherproof. Any cuts in exterior finish shall be flashed or caulked.

JOIST HANGERS - Header joists more than six feet long and tail joists over 12 feet long shall be supported by approved framing anchors such as joist hangers.

WOOD REQUIRED - All exposed wood used in the construction of decks is required to be wood with natural resistance to decay (the heartwoods of redwood, cedar, etc.) or approved treated wood. This includes posts, beams, joists, decking, and railings.

SPECIAL DESIGN NOTE - Some deck designs may not be structurally appropriate should the placement of a screen porch or 3-season porch on the deck platform be a future consideration. Please inform the Plan Examiners if a future addition is planned for the deck and they can assist with design information and properly record this fact for the future. Porch setback requirements are not the same as deck setbacks.

DECK DETAILS



NOTE: All materials used for posts, joists, beams, and decking shall be of approved wood of natural resistance to decay or approved treated wood.

Guardrails shall be designed to resist a single concentrated load of 200 pounds applied in any direction at any point along the top.

* Footing width must be designed to support the load of the structure.



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
St Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806

Telephone: 651-266-9090
Facsimile: 651-266-9124
Web: www.stpaul.gov/dsi

OVERHEAD XCEL ENERGY WIRE CLEARANCES FROM DECKS, SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS & HOT TUBS

If you are thinking of installing a deck, swimming pool, spa or hot tub outdoors under the power wires running from your house to a wood pole, please be aware that those wires have minimum clearance requirements that must be maintained after the deck, pool or tub is installed. These clearances are the minimum necessary for electrical safety as determined by the National Electrical Code to prevent contact with live wires when standing on a deck or when in or around a hot tub, spa or swimming pool. Also, please understand that you own and are responsible for all of the electrical service: mast, meter socket, etc. The only two things XCEL owns are the overhead wires between your house and the wood pole and the electric meter. Any modification to the service is your financial responsibility, and XCEL energy may have additional charges for their work with the overhead wires.

Decks: A minimum of 10 feet between the XCEL wires and any point on the deck directly under the wires. This may include the “drip loop” between the point where the wires attach to the house and where they loop down to go into the conduit for the service entrance to the house. This loop may be the low point of the entire run of wire and must have 10 feet from the deck.

Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs: The XCEL Energy wires must be a minimum of 22-1/2 feet above the maximum water level of the pool, tub or spa. This minimum height is extended for a distance of 10 feet horizontally around the pool, spa or tub. This particular clearance applies only to the XCEL wires between your home and the wood pole. There are greater clearances if the pool, spa or tub is close to the higher voltage wires that may be run from pole to pole in neighborhoods.

How Do I Get The Clearances I Need? There are 3 basic ways to get the additional clearance you need for safety:

1. **Raise the height of the service mast-** this may be possible if the additional height necessary is fairly small. XCEL may charge for moving their wires.
2. **Move the service location-** This requires, at the minimum, moving the mast to a new location so that the overhead wires will not cross within the boundaries of the restricted space above the pool, tub or spa. XCEL may charge for moving their wires.
3. **Bury the service wires-** This may be possible depending on the relative location of the pool, spa or tub and whether there is clearance to bury the wires around the edge. These buried wires still must be at least 5 feet away from the edge of the pool, spa or tub. Your first step would be to contact XCEL Energy (800-628-2121) to have them determine whether it is even feasible to bury the service conductors. XCEL does charge for the burial of the conductors.

Who can do this electrical work? Under certain circumstances, an owner-homesteader may do their own electrical work (please contact us for further information before proceeding) with an electrical permit from this office. Since moving or changing the service to a house requires shutting off all the power to the house and working with live unfused electrical wires from XCEL, if you are at all concerned about working with these live wires, please consider hiring an electrical contractor (company) licensed with the State of Minnesota. The contractor obtains their own electrical permit and inspections as needed. For further information, please call the electrical inspectors at (651) 266-9003 between 7:30 & 9:00am. Monday-Friday.